

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-05 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NEAE-00

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P R 011430Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7508

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANA 0743

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE

SUBJ: SULTAN VISIT TO YAR

REF: SANA 0679

1. ACCORDING JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR, YAR PRESIDENT IBRAHIM AL-HAMDI SAID PRINCE SULTAN EXPECTED VISIT YAR MARCH 10-13. HE WILL APPARENTLY VISIT TAIZ AND HODEIDA AS WELL AS SANA.
2. UK AMBASSADOR HERE SAYS HE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT YAR AGENDA FOR SULTAN VISIT IS FIXED. HE DOES NOT RPT NOT KNOW ALL ITEMS, BUT BELIEVES THEY INCLUDE NUMBER OF NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH YEMENIS HOPE SUAIDS WILL AGREE TO FINANCE. ONE SUCH PROJECT IS SALIF PORT, SUPERB NATURAL HARBOR WHICH COULD SERVE AS FREE PORT FOR KINGDOM.
3. ARMS ARE OBVIOUSLY ONE ITEM ON YEMENI LIST, AS REPORTED IN SANA 0676.
4. AT HAMDI DEPARTURE FOR CAIRO TODAY MOHAMMAD JUNAYD, YAR MIN FINANCE, IN COURSE OF LAMENTING IN GOOD NATURED WAY THAT HAMDI HAD FLATLY REFUSED RELEASE HIM TO BE AMBASSADOR TO US, SAID HE UP TO HIS NECK INEFFORT NOW TO GET NEW BEDGET IN SHAPE FOR PRESENTATION TO COMMAND COUNCIL AND CABINET

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ON MAY 1. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PLANNED EXPENDITURES

WOULD RISE SHARPLY AND "PROBABLY" RISE MUCH FASTER THAN DOMESTIC REVENUES CAN BE INCREASED. ANOTHER ITEM ON YEMENI AGENDA MAY THUS BE INCREASE IN BUDGET SUBSIDIES.

5. DON'T KNOW WHAT YEMENI PRIORITIES ARE FOR SULTAN MEETING. LAST AUGUST PRIOR TO YAR PRIME MINISTER VISIT TO KINGDOM, HAMDI CHOPPED AWAY TWO THIRDS OF PROPOSED REQUESTS PREPARED BY CABINET. RESULT WAS THAT SAUDIS APPROVED EVERYTHING REQUESTED, AND BOTH SIDES PARTED WITH GREAT GOOD FEELING.

6. WOULD ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT ANY DECISION ABOUT HOW MUCH OR WHAT TO ASK FOR WOULD LEAVE LARGE MILITARY REQUEST IN FIRST PLACE.

7. CAN JIDDA VERIFY TIMING OF SULTAN VISIT?

8. BELIEVE DEPARTMENT COULD USEFULLY AUTHORIZE APPROACH TO SAUDIS BEFORE SULTAN VISIT TO GET THEIR IDEAS OF WHAT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED HERE. IN THIS APPROACH SAUDIS COULD GET AT LEAST SOME PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA ON EQUIPMENT LIST WE WERE GIVEN ONE MONTH AGO. WE MIGHT ALSO GIVE SULTAN SOME PRELIMINARY USG IMPRESSIONS OF PROPOSED SAUDI MODERNIZATION PROGRAM FOR YAR AND ENCOURAGE SAUDIS TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM. (THEY MIGHT FOR INSTANCE BE ENCOURAGED TO CUT YEMENIS IN ON DETAILS OF LIST THEY HAVE TURNED OVER TO US.) DO NOT RPT NOT SUGGEST WE CAN OR SHOULD MINIMIZE OUR SUSPICIONS OF WHAT YEMENIS MAY BE UP TO IN MATTER OF RECEIVING SOVIET ARMS, BUT WE CAN SAY THAT CONCRETE AND DETAILED SAUDI ASSURANCES ABOUT ALTERNATIVES TO SOVIETS AS MILITARY SUPPLIER WILL HAVE GREAT AND FAVORABLE, AND PERHAPS CRUCIAL, IMPACT ON HAMDI AND OTHERS HERE.
RANSOM

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